AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An apparatus for determining the identification of selected objects for use in connection with an electronic children's educational toy, said apparatus comprising:

- a plurality of objects, each of said objects including a plurality of object contact elements wherein two or more of such contact elements are connected to one another to form a contact pattern which serves to uniquely identify the associated object;

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- an identification member capable of being placed in physical contact with said object contact elements of each of said objects;

- said identification member including a plurality of member contact elements configured such that at least two of said member contact elements come into electrical contact with at least two of said object contact elements when said identification member is placed in physical contact with one of said objects;

- a processing unit in electrical contact with said identification member, said processing unit capable of detecting the object contact pattern in physical contact with said identification member, thereby determining the identification of the particular object in physical contact with said identification member.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a means of providing information ~~to the user~~ by at least one of audio, visual and tactile means, said information corresponding to the identification of the particular object in physical contact with said identification member.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the means of providing information ~~to the user~~ by at least one of audio, visual and tactile means comprises computer-generated human speech.

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4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the means of providing information ~~to the user~~ by at least one of audio, visual and tactile means comprises movement of a portion of said apparatus.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said identification member includes at least three member contact elements arranged linearly.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each of said objects includes at least two contact elements arranged such that each of said object contact elements comes into electrical contact with a corresponding one of said member contact elements when one of said objects is placed into physical contact with said identification member.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said identification member includes at least four contact elements arranged in at least two linear rows.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein each of said objects includes at least two contact elements arranged such that each of said object contact elements comes into physical contact with a corresponding one of said identification member contact elements when one of said objects is placed into physical contact with said identification member.

9. (Original) An electronic children's educational toy comprising:

- a fishing pole device including a rod member and a hook member;

- a plurality of objects, each of said objects including a plurality of object contact elements wherein two or more of such contact elements are connected to one another to form a contact pattern which serves to uniquely identify each object, wherein each of

said objects includes an aperture configured so as to accept engagement of said hook member when said hook member is placed in physical contact with said object;

- an identification member associated with said hook member, said identification member including a plurality of member contact elements configured such that at least two of said member contact elements come into electrical contact with at least two of said object contact elements when said hook member is placed in physical contact with one of said objects;

- a processing unit associated with said fishing pole device, wherein said processing unit is in direct electrical contact with said identification member and said processing unit is capable of detecting the object contact pattern in physical contact with said identification member, thereby determining the identification of the particular object in physical contact with said hook member.

10. (Currently Amended) The electronic children's educational toy according to claim 9, further comprising a means of providing information ~~to the user~~ by at least one of audio, visual and tactile means, said information corresponding to the identification of the particular object in physical contact with said hook member.

11. (Currently Amended) The electronic children's educational toy according to claim 10, wherein the means of providing information ~~to the user~~ by at least one of audio, visual and tactile means comprises computer-generated human speech.

12. (Currently Amended) The electronic children's educational toy according to claim 10, wherein the means of providing information ~~to the user~~ by at least one of audio, visual or tactile means comprises movement of said hook member relative to said rod member.

13. (Original) A method for determining the identification of selected objects in connection with an electronic children's educational toy, said method comprising:

- operably engaging an identification member including a plurality of electrically conductive member contact elements with an object including a plurality of electrically conductive object contact elements forming a unique contact pattern, such that at least two of said member contact elements and at least two of said object contact elements are brought into electrical contact with one another;

- passing an electrical current from said identification member to said object through at least one of said member contact elements and at least one of said object contact elements;

- determining which of said member contact elements are conducting an electrical current, thereby determining the contact pattern of the object which is in physical contact with said identification member; and

- identifying the object which is in physical contact with said identification member based on the contact pattern of said object contact members.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, further including indicating ~~to the user~~ by at least one of audio, visual and tactile means which of said objects is in physical contact with said identification member.